

# DRC, Northville Near End Of Record Campaigns

With the most successful seasons in history rapidly nearing an end at the Detroit Race Course and Northville Downs, Michigan's harness and thoroughbred racing programs will swing to new sites next week.

The runners shift to Hazel Park Monday for the first of 90 daily programs and the pacers and trotters will move from Northville Downs to Wolverine Raceway, which operates at the DRC on Wednesday night.

THE WOLVERINE meeting is expected to attract more attention than any previous campaign since it will present all races over the mile strip. This is a first for parimutuel racing in this area.

Wolverine thus becomes the 10th track in the nation to feature the wider, mile track and joins the ranks of such famed plants as the Big Red Mile in Lexington, Ky. and the DuQuoin State Fair, home of the

Hambledon Classic, the Kentucky Derby for trotters. The reasoning behind the move is to offer a faster racing surface and more fruitful competition to fans.

MEANWHILE, Hazel Park is busy with plans for what General Manager Frank Stepek predicts will be a greater meeting than a year ago when it became the first Michigan thoroughbred track to end the season with an average daily handle of more than \$1 million.

"We decided to ask for the fall dates this year," said Stepek. "To prove that Hazel Park can average a million in the spring or the fall."

Posttime for the first race on opening day Monday will be 5:20 p.m. with nine races daily

and 10 races on Saturday and holidays.

MOVING INTO its final Saturday with wagering near an all-time high of a \$1 million daily average, attendance showing a big increase, the DRC will offer a pair of climatic stakes carrying added purse money of \$5,000.

Northville Downs, the state's pioneer parimutuel night racing plant, will close its most successful season on Tuesday. The Downs is enjoying its best campaign with wagering at an all-time high of \$1 million and attendance up more than six per cent over 1969.

Racing Secretary Harry Peterson has arranged a \$5,000 preferred pace Saturday, the final big program of the meet-

ing, which is expected to attract such standouts as Cashin Beauty, Gunner Creed, The Big Bear, Blaze Pick and Philip Brian.

There is a possibility that Mrs. June Dillman Weller, first woman to drive a winner in the historic Michigan Pacing Derby, will be back and drive in three or four races.

THE DRC will drop the curtain on its 1970 activities with a 10-race program headlined by the \$35,000 added Detroit Handicap and the \$20,000 added Michigan Futurity.

The Futurity will draw an outstanding field of two-year-olds, foaled in Michigan, out of a classic group of 82 nominated.

The Detroit has attracted a roster of 33 three-year-old colts headed by the three-

which finished second third, and fourth to High Election in this year's Belmont Stakes, the third jewel of racing's Triple Crown.

These, in order of their Belmont finish, include Thomas F. Fleming Jr.'s Noddy N Pens, Her-Jae Stable's Nasrka and Brookmeade Stable's Clumber.

Needle N Pens also was in the money in the famed Dwyer Handicap, while Nasrka triumphed at both the Everglades and Lexington, with Clumber most recently scoring in the Ohio Derby.

ROBIN'S BUG, the home-owned colt of Walter Hickey and Dr. Richard Kuhn, who made off with the Memorial Day Handicap here by four lengths, after a disappointing performance in the Kentucky Derby and Freshness, is

among the favorites, along with Everett Lawrence's Everett-Lust.

The latter won this year's Crete Handicap at Chicago and was fourth behind Corn Off The Cob in the Arlington Classic.

Two other local stakes winners nominated for the Detroit include Karl Vaglieff's Salvo and Delta Farm's P. F. Mayboy. This race will be a testing mile and one-eight, while the Futurity will be contested at six furlongs.

In bringing the 1970 meet to a close, the DRC has cracked its parimutuel records every day in the week besides setting an all-time high of handling \$2,149,231 on Michigan Mile Day, June 20.

Attendance has averaged well over 11,000 per day for another new mark.

By George Maskin

## observing sports

So far the sports fan seems complacent. He's not arising to shout bitter words despite the fact it's costing him more to see his various favorites in action.

Maybe, he's saying to himself: "Everything else is going up, why not tickets for sports events?"

Hence, few complaints because in recent months the Tigers have picked game tickets; the Lions have made it necessary for season-ticket holders to buy two exhibition game tickets along with those for the regular season; the Wings have raised all their seats and the Pistons have sliced sharply the discount they offered on season tickets.

"Sports still are a great bargain," one friend remarked the other day.

"After all, I can take my wife to see the Tigers or any of the other teams and it's still a lot cheaper than taking her to a legitimate theater or to dinner."

The gent has a point, assuming he can just take her to the game. But, somehow, we suspect the better half will insist on some kind of food-refreshment along the line, too.

BUT, THE WAY things are going, the day may come when pro sports will reach the point where fans of necessity will have to hold back.

And, what a tragedy that will be. Trying to keep costs down on a sports team is like trying to keep the budget down in the old home-stead.

For one thing, you always have the tax man who seems to insist that each year brings a revision -- upwards -- in what he's going to seek you.

The price of transporting a team goes up and up and up. Hotels want pro teams. But, that doesn't stop them from swelling their charges.

The airlines have boosted their rates and it should be noted that professional or college teams get no special breaks or discounts when they go by air. The ticket prices are the same as the average guy pays.

In fact, some groups can do better the way the regulations read than the pro teams.

Throw in the constantly rising salaries, the money necessary to rent arenas and stadiums, the fees for ushers, the money which must go into pension funds the prime source of the football problem (this year) and you readily can understand why the professional bosses are squirming.

BUT ACTUALLY, IT'S NOT much different at the college or high school level.

Most major colleges, like Michigan and Michigan State, must make their athletic operations balance on the revenue the various sports take in.

Except for football and basketball, the other sports all are losers -- at the gate.

Almost everywhere the National College Athletic Association meets, the topic of growing costs is a prime subject for discussion.

Few have the answers. Few want to cut back which is what the University of Detroit and some other schools did by dropping football. But in some situations, what else can be done.

In the high schools, most the schools keep sports alive because of money assigned from the regular school budgets.

Yet, each millage election brings with it a threat: "If this isn't passed, our sports programs will have to suffer."

And some have -- right here in Observerland.

Where do we go from here is a question the smartest in the business can't answer.

In the end, it would appear that Mr. Fan constantly will be tagged with the added burden of helping to keep his favorite athletic teams alive.

He may not like it, but as long as he can ... he'll dig the money out.

MR. FAN HAS to be the last resort, because where else can the various teams go -- be they pro, college or high school.

Right now, the pros are getting about all that the television market can stand ... and without this money very few teams could break even ... and that includes a team like the Lions which sell upwards of 40,000 tickets.

Professional team owners or athletic directors aren't crying for the sake of dramatics when they sing the blues about the soaring costs.

At whatever level they operate, they're businessmen or there are businessmen looking over their shoulders to make certain all is going well.

One suspects, that somehow the pro teams always will get along in some way or another.

But what worries this department is the high school and junior high situation. As stated earlier, we have seen it actually happen in these parts where cutbacks have been applied.

Each such move has its effects. It means that many boys -- and even girls -- are being knocked out of a deserved chance to compete in sports or maybe it's music or dramatics.

Money, money, money ...

## Westlander Wins Flat Rock Feature

Jerry Makara, of Westland, won the first feature event of his career in ARCA Late Model Stocks at Flat Rock Speedway.

Makara, driving a 1965 Chevelle, passed Ed Hage, of Ypsilanti, on the 19th lap and went on to win the 25 lap feature ahead of Dick Mitchell of Trenton.

In the Late Model preliminary events Rutman was fast qualifier at 13:27 seconds and won. Heat winners were Jim Clarke, Frank Carr, Livonia; Harry Farmer, Livonia; and Danny Byrd winning the Pursuit and Farmer the consolation event.

Bud Howell, of Allen Park, won the Figure 8 Feature after battling Lubie Allen, with Allen finally coming across the finish line on Howell's bumper, in a slam-bang affair for the entire 15 laps.

In preliminary Figure 8 action Howell was fast qualifier at 15:32 seconds. Dash winner was Dennis Pace, Plymouth, and first winners were Ray Alexander, Pat Haywood, Karl Kobary, Gary Schutt and Red Little. Roy Maples won the Consolation.

## Pick Queen To Reign Over 200 Classic

Young lady, how would you like to be a beauty queen?

This may be your chance! Promoter Pete Magrie is announcing plans to select a Miss Mt. Clemens 200 to reign over the biggest super-stock racing show of the year -- the Mt. Clemens superstock 200 on Thursday, Aug. 6, at the Mt. Clemens Race Track.

The 200 is the classic that has made the Mt. Clemens track known throughout the midwest. The program includes two back-to-back 100 lappers for superstocks for \$1,500 in prize money, including \$1,100 to each winner.

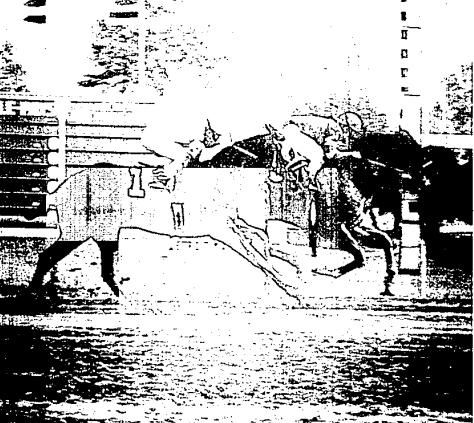
This is open competition, which annually attracts outstanding drivers from throughout Michigan and from neighboring states. The role of queen of such a classic is glamorous indeed, but that's not all. The queen will also receive beautiful prizes, including a lovely wardrobe, in addition to widespread publicity and acclaim.

The rules for the contest are simple: Any unmarried girl, from 16 through 24 years of age, is eligible except for the relatives to employees of the Mt. Clemens Race Track.

Contestants are asked to send in a recent picture, together with such pertinent data as their height, weight, age and their schooling.

All entries should be sent to the attention of the contest director, Mrs. Melba Magrie, Mt. Clemens Race Track, 227 North River Road, Mt. Clemens, Mich. 48063.

The queen will be selected at the track beginning at 8:15 p.m., Saturday, Aug. 1. Contestants are asked to come in semi-formal dress for the occasion.



LONGSHOT Mr. Gemini (6), on the inside, barely holds on to win a division of the Graduation Stakes at the Detroit Race Course from Speak Quick (1). The two-year old event was one of the features of the final 10 days of racing at the Livonia track. The 90-day meeting ends Saturday after which the runners switch to Hazel Park on Monday for 90 days.

## Turnabout Is Fairway Play

Turnabout is fair play--the adage says--and the "high" got a crack at the honors of Livonia's Women's Golf League recent matches at Whispering Willows municipal golf course.

Not exactly but winners nonetheless were: A

right, Shirley Adams, B right, Mary Katoligos, C right, Doris Fuchs, D right, Jean Martin, and E right, Dee Bresnahan.

Recent "high" putters included Clara Capellan vives, the same Clara who shot two zeroes in the low 100s. Pat

Russell, Roberta Sebo, Paula Madsen and Thelma Ziegler. Politics is a sideline to the weekly matches as members begin their annual search for new officers to be elected at the league's annual awards luncheon. The noon affair will be held Aug. 28 at the Hillsdale Inn in Plymouth.

## Christian Athletes To Gather

MT. PLEASANT The fellowship of Christian Athletes' second annual conference at Central Michigan University will open Sunday, Aug. 2 and continue through Friday, Aug. 7.

Michigan FCA Executive Director Robert Miste (Farmington) said that he expects some 250-300 high school and college-age athletes to take part in the conference, a sizable jump over last year's attendance of approximately 100.

Miste, in his third year as Michigan FCA director, noted that young athletes from Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Ohio, Tennessee, West Virginia and Wisconsin are expected to

join a healthy contingent of Michigan athletes at the week-long camp which will be directed by Ron Morris of the FCA national staff and Ted Kjelqvist, CMC basketball coach.

The camp again will have noteworthy athletes and coaches on its staff. The full staff will be announced the last week of July, but basketball Coach Lonnie Greene (River Rouge) and former Albion College football Coach Morley Fraser, both members of the Michigan FCA State Board of Directors, are expected to be on hand along with Michigan FCA President Elmer Robert White, Wayne State University's 1968 Olympic trained.

The theme of the Summer

Conference is "Inspiration and Perseverance" with emphasis on spiritual and physical developments. Periods are set aside daily for devotions, meditations or observance of Mass in the non-sectarian group along with periods for workouts leading to the "Dogpatch Olympics," an annual highlight of every conference.

Young athletes attending the conference will be housed and fed on the CMU campus in dormitories and have access to the university's athletic facilities. For further information on programs, costs and facilities, contact Miste at 474-3008 or 26002 Farmington Rd., Farmington.

## Fans Honor Al Kaline On Sunday

Al Kaline's day in the sun may help to provide a happier

summer for many Detroit-area youngsters.

The Tiger star will be honored in "Al Kaline Day" ceremonies prior to the Detroit-Minnesota game at Tiger Stadium on Sunday, Aug. 2. National and local government and sports figures, as well as representatives of Al's fan fol-

lowing, will participate in the tribute to Kaline.

Informed that unsolicited contributions will be sent in by some fans, Kaline said he would like to have such donations go to a Detroit-area summer recreation program for youngsters.

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**Sports Briefs**

**Big Jaunt**

Michigan State's first athletic road trip--16 miles by rail to Mason, Mich.--was made by a student-organized and managed baseball team in 1866.

**MSU No. 1**

Michigan State radio station WKAR began broadcasting

**Top Athletes**

Michigan State has had three athletes make three U.S. Olympic teams each--walkers Ernest Croubie and Adolph Wemmer and fencer Allan Kwader.